

REGULATORY PROGRAM PERMIT ACTION

APPLICANT: California-American Water Company (Cal-Am)

AREA: Carmel River, Monterey County, California

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 17th District, Rep. Sam Farr

DESCRIPTION: The San Clemente Dam on the Carmel River was built in 1921 to provide a source of water for communities on the Monterey Peninsula and provide a flood control function during significant storm events in the upper watershed. Over time, sediment has completely filled the dam such that it no longer serves those functions. Inspections by the Division of Dam Safety of the California Department of Water Resources determined that the dam would probably fail under the Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE) or under the pressure of the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF). In 1998, Cal-Am applied to the Corps for a permit to re-enforce the face of the dam to alleviate those concerns. Because the dam is a barrier to fish passage, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) would like to see the dam removed completely. Additionally, passing the enormous cost of complete removal to Cal-Am's ratepayers poses further complications. Efforts are underway to find alternative funding sources for dam removal.

STATUS: Cal-Am and the Corps are preparing a joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). Alternatives to the retrofit being considered include partial or complete removal of the dam. The NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are cooperating agencies in this effort. The final EIR/EIS is expected to be issued in Jan or Feb 2007.

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